

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Ken HASHIMOTO

Serial No. 09/021,370

Group Art Unit: 2876

Confirmation No. 4361

Filed: February 10, 1998

Examiner: D. St. Cyr

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CHARGING USING DATA CARRIER

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 13, 2001, and having a period for response set to expire on June 13, 2001.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1-24 in accordance with the following:

1. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:
writing means for writing data in at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of a dish or drink;